



## **Joint Informational Hearing**

### **Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 Medi-Cal Managed Care Accreditation, Rate-Setting, and Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) Provisions and County Oversight Components of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal**

**Thursday, March 25, 2021 Upon Adjournment of Session  
State Capitol, Room 4202**

#### **AGENDA**

#### **I. Opening Remarks by Assemblymembers**

- 1) Requirement for Medi-Cal Managed Care (MCMC) Plans to be Accredited by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), and Option for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to “Deem” Plan’s Compliance with NCQA Standards as Meeting Applicable State and Federal Medicaid Requirements**

*Policy Questions:*

- a. What is the goal of requiring Medi-Cal managed care plans and their subcontractors to be NCQA accredited (or accreditation by an alternate entity)?
- b. Should MCMC plans and applicable subcontractors that are NCQA accredited be deemed to meet applicable state and federal Medicaid requirement, to the extent DHCS determines appropriate?
- c. What state MCMC oversight requirements would be replaced by NCQA accreditation?
- d. Are there areas of state oversight of MCMC plans that should continue to be performed directly via state staff?
- e. In lieu of NCQA accreditation, should the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) perform the managed care monitoring function, either directly for Knox-Keene plans, or through an interagency agreement with the DMHC?
- f. Because NCQA accreditation and deeming proposal has a 2026 effective date, can this proposal be deferred to a later date?

*Witnesses:*

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director,  
Department of Health Care Services

Ben Johnson, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Katherine Barresi, RN, BSN, PHN, CCM Director Care Coordination, Partnership Health Plan of California

Cary Sanders, Senior Policy Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Mary June G. Diaz, Government Relations Advocate, California State Council of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU California)

## 2) Authority for DHCS to Establish MCMC Rates on a Regional Basis

### *Policy Questions:*

- a. Are MCMC rates currently set exclusively by county under current law/practice?
- b. What is the policy and fiscal goal of having rates set by region?
- c. Should the proposed regions be codified in law?
- d. Are MCMC plans going to see a dramatic change in their rates as a result of this proposal?
- e. Are there plan characteristics that make a plan more likely to be “winners” or “losers” under a regional rate setting model? Can adjustments be built into the rates to meet local cost variations or the enrollment of higher cost populations?
- f. Will regional rating put downward pressure on Medi-Cal managed care rates, and payment rates paid by plans to health care providers?
- g. Existing law authorizes DHCS to implement pay for performance for MCMC. Should the MCMC rate setting process be required to take into account quality and access to care to reward better performing plans?

### *Witnesses:*

Lindy Harrington, Deputy Director of Health Care Financing, Department of Health Care Services

Ben Johnson, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Maya Altman, Chief Executive Officer, Health Plan of San Mateo

Larry deGhetaldi, MD, Sutter Palo Alto Medical Foundation Santa Cruz CEO

## 3) Sunset of Cal MediConnect and Requirement for “Aligned” Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs)

### *Policy Questions:*

- a. What lessons did Administration learn from the Coordinated Care Initiative that informed its policy design and decision making for CalAIM?
- b. Will dual eligible individuals be passively enrolled in DSNPs for their Medicare benefits?
- c. Are DSNPs viable without significant enrollment?
- d. Under the aligned DSNP enrollment proposal, if a Medi-Cal beneficiary is enrolled a sub-delegated plan, will their aligned LTSS plan be the main DHCS contracting plan or the sub-delegated plan?
- e. What will be the role of the existing ombudsman for Cal MediConnect? Is DHCS proposing to continue its existing contract?

- f. Will there be additional funding for the ombudsman and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Programs to deal with increased call volume resulting from the D-SNP transition?

*Witnesses:*

Anastasia Dodson, Associate Director for Policy, or Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Ned Resnikoff, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Jack Dailey, Director of Policy and Training and Coordinator, the Health Consumer Alliance at Legal Aid Society of San Diego County  
Maya Altman, Chief Executive Officer, Health Plan of San Mateo  
Eve Gelb, MPH, Senior Vice President, Member and Community Health, SCAN Health Plan®

**4) Mandatory Medi-Cal Application Process upon Release from Jail and County Juvenile Facilities**

*Policy Questions:*

- a. Is the DHCS proposal modeled on a practice in a particular county?
- b. What types of entities does DHCS envision assisting county jail inmates and juvenile inmates with submitting an application for Covered California or Medi-Cal?
- c. The proposed TBL has a requirement for what people call a "warm handoff" where DHCS would develop and implement a mandatory process by which jails and juvenile facilities would coordinate the county and MCMC plans to facilitate continued behavioral health treatment in the community for inmates receiving those services prior to release. Who is DHCS thinking would perform this function? For example, would it be county eligibility staff, jail staff or a non-profit entity?
- d. The LAO has indicated this is a reimbursable mandate. Will there be funding proposed in the DHCS budget for this requirement?
- e. Under this proposal, will inmates receive assistance in selecting a MCMC plan while applying for Medi-Cal prior to release?

*Witnesses:*

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Ned Resnikoff, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association  
Assistant Sheriff Dave Putnam, Kings County  
Cathren Cohen, Staff Attorney, National Health Law Program

**5) Increasing Oversight and Monitoring of the County Medi-Cal Eligibility Determination Process**

*Policy Question:*

What additional oversight and monitoring is DHCS seeking beyond the performance standards in existing law?

*Witnesses:*

Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Ned Resnikoff, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association  
David Kane, Staff Attorney, Western Center on Law & Poverty

**6) Increasing DHCS Oversight and Monitoring of Local California Children's Services and Child Health Disability Prevention Program**

*Policy Question:*

What additional oversight and monitoring is DHCS seeking?

*Witnesses:*

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California  
Skyler Rosellini, Senior Attorney, National Health Law Program

**7) Improving Medi-Cal Beneficiary Contact and Demographic Information**

*Policy Question:*

What are the legal and administrative barriers to improving Medi-Cal beneficiary contact and demographic information?

*Witnesses:*

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Ned Resnikoff, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association  
Cary Sanders, Senior Policy Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

**8) New Denti-Cal Dental Benefits and Pay for Performance**

*Policy Questions:*

- a. What have the outcome measures of the Dental Transformation Initiatives shown?
- b. Should the state have a goal for adult dental utilization in Denti-Cal?

*Witnesses:*

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director for Health Care Programs and State Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Ben Johnson, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Dharia McGrew, Senior Legislative Advocate, California Dental Association  
Katie Andrew, Senior Health Policy and Outreach Associate, Children Now

**9) Extension of Hospital Quality Improvement Program to District Hospitals, and Extension of Global Payment Program**

*Policy Questions:*

- a. What has the evaluation of the GPP shown?
- b. What is the benefit of extending the quality improvement program provisions to district hospitals?

*Witnesses:*

Lindy Harrington, Deputy Director of Health Care Financing, Department of Health Care Services

Sarah Hesketh, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

Sherreta Lane, Senior Vice President, Finance Policy, District Hospital Leadership Forum

**II. Public Comment**